AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A security element comprising a magnetic layer and an embossed layer, the embossed layer having ~~an embossed~~ a diffractive pattern of a particular shape producing an optical diffraction effect, ~~characterized in that~~ the magnetic layer [[is]] being a soft-magnetic layer which is selectively magnetizable to show magnetic properties when exposed to a magnetic field, wherein at least part of the soft-magnetic layer has the shape of the ~~embossed~~ diffractive pattern of the embossed layer, said embossed layer affecting the magnetic properties of the soft-magnetic layer such that when the security element is selectively magnetized the effects are detectable externally of the security element.

2. (Original) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the security element further comprises at least a metal layer with a high specular reflectance.

3. (Original) A security element according to claim 2, characterized in that the metal layer with a high specular reflectance is chosen from aluminum, silver, chromium, gold or any other highly reflective metal layer or metal oxide such as titanium dioxide, niobium dioxide, tin oxide, indium oxide, indium-tin oxide or zinc oxide.

4. (Original) A security element according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the metal layer with a high specular reflectance is aluminum.

5. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the security element further comprises an adhesive layer.

6. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 5, characterized in that the adhesive layer comprises an a,b-ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid-based resin.

7. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the embossed layer comprises an a,b-ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid-based resin.

8. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the particular shape of the embossed pattern produces a hologram.

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9. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the soft-magnetic layer comprises an alloy containing cobalt and niobium, together with a glass-forming element.

10. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the soft-magnetic layer comprises an alloy containing cobalt, iron, silicon and boron.

11. (Original) A security element according to claim 10, characterized in that said alloy contains further nickel.

12. (Original) A security element according to claim 10, characterized in that said alloy has the formula

$Co_a\ Fe_b\ Ni_c\ Mo_d\ Si_e\ B_f$, where a is in the range of 35 to 70 atomic percent, b is zero to 8 atomic percent, c is zero to 40 atomic percent, d is zero to 4 atomic percent, e is zero to 30 atomic percent and f is zero to 30 atomic percent, with at least one of the group b, c, d and e, f being non-zero.

13. (Original) A security element according to claim 12, characterized in that said alloy has a composition (in atomic percent) in the range:

Co 35-70, Fe 2-7, Ni 10-35, Mo 0-2, Si 12-20 and B 6-12.

14. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in that the security element has a single soft-magnetic layer.

15. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in that the soft-magnetic layer has a coercive force in the range 3 A/m to 500 A/m.

16. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 9 or 10 characterized in that the soft-magnetic layer is a non-work-hardened layer.

17. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the soft-magnetic layer is a sputtered layer.

18. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1, characterized in that the effect on the magnetic properties of the soft-magnetic layer is at least a change in coercive force of 10% or a change in relative permeability of at least 10%.

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19-32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously presented) A security element according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of the soft-magnetic layer is in the range of 150-700 nm.

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